

embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:
determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each
4 sector in the subscriber station's list;
determining at the subscriber station a quality related to a reverse link
6 quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and
directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector
8 from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to
10 a reverse link quality metric.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data
2 communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining at the
2 subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the
subscriber station's list comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-
4 ratio of the forward link.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said measuring a
2 signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link comprises measuring a
signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said measuring a
2 signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link
comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-
4 continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining a
2 quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber
station's list comprises:

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4 ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a
first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list;
6 and

 processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for
8 the each sector in the subscriber station's list.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ascertaining at
2 the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the
forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises
4 ascertaining at the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse
power control channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber
6 station's list.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said processing at the
2 subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for each sector in the
subscriber station's list comprises filtering said ascertained signal value by a
4 filter with a pre-determined time constant.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link
4 quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality
metric comprises:

6 assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a
current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality
8 metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric;
and

10 directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector
from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
12 credits.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said assigning credits
2 to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a current serving sector in

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accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said
4 determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric comprises:

comparing a forward link quality metric for a non-serving sector with a
6 forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a first
threshold;

8 comparing a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
serving sector with a second threshold;

10 comparing a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current
serving sector with the second threshold; and

12 determining whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving
sector in accordance with results of said comparisons.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said determining
2 whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving sector in accordance
with results of said comparisons comprises:

4 increasing credits of the non-serving sector by a first pre-determined
amount if:

6 the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a
8 reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is greater than the
second threshold; or if:

10 the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a
12 reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is less than the second
threshold and the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is greater
14 than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by the
first threshold; and

16 decreasing credits of the non-serving sector by a second pre-determined
amount if:

18 the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is less
than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a
20 first threshold; or if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
22 serving sector is greater than the second threshold.

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12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits
4 comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third
6 threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with
8 the highest of said assigned credits.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal
4 highest assigned credits.

14. The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have
4 equal highest assigned credits.

15. The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising remaining in
2 communication with the current serving sector otherwise.

16. An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

a processor; and

4 a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of
instructions executable by the processor to:

6 determine at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each
sector in the subscriber station's list;

8 determine at the subscriber station a quality related to a reverse link
quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

10 direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined

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- 12 forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse
link quality metric.

17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data
2 communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward
link for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of
4 instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward
link.

19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said processor is
2 configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward
link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-
4 interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said processor is
2 configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal
on the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-
4 noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

21. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each
sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

4 ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a
first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list;
6 and

process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for
8 the each sector in the subscriber station's list.

22. The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said processor is
2 configured to ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position
in a first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list

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4 by executing a set of instructions to ascertain at the subscriber station a reverse
power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the forward link for each
6 sector in the subscriber station's list.

23. The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said processor is
2 configured to process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value
for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions
4 to filter said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time
constant.

24. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is
2 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
4 determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to
a reverse link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

6 assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a
current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality
8 metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric;
and

10 direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
12 credits.

25. The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said processor is
2 configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except
a current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality
4 metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric by
executing a set of instructions to:

6 compare a forward link quality metric for a non-serving sector with a
forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a first
8 threshold;

compare a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
10 serving sector with a second threshold;

compare a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current
12 serving sector with the second threshold; and

determine whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving
14 sector in accordance with results of said comparisons.

26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-
serving sector in accordance with results of said comparisons by executing a
4 set of instructions to:

increase credits of the non-serving sector by a first pre-determined
6 amount if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
8 serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to
a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is greater than
10 the second threshold; or if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
12 serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to
a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is less than the
14 second threshold and the forward link quality metric for the non-serving
sector is greater than the forward link quality metric for the current
16 serving sector modified by the first threshold; and

decrease credits of the non-serving sector by a second pre-determined
18 amount if:

the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is less
20 than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified
by a first threshold; or if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-
22 serving sector is greater than the second threshold.

27. The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said processor is
2 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
4 assigned credits by executing a set of instructions to:

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determine sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third
6 threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the
8 highest of said assigned credits.

28. The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined
sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

29. The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined
sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

30. The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to remain in communication with the current serving sector
4 otherwise.

31. An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

means for determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality
4 metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

means for determining at the subscriber station a quality related to a
6 reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

means for directing communication between the subscriber station and
8 one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with
said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities
10 related to a reverse link quality metric.

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32. A method for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:
determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each
4 sector in the subscriber station's list;
determining a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the
6 subscriber station's list; and
directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector
8 from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
determined forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined
10 forward link de-rating value.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said data
2 communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

34. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said determining at
2 the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the
subscriber station's list comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-
4 ratio of the forward link.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said measuring a
2 signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link comprises measuring a
signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

36. The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said measuring a
2 signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link
comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-
4 continuous-pilot signal on the forward link.

37. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said determining a
2 forward link de-rating value of at least one sector in the subscriber station's list
comprises:
4 ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a
first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber
6 station's list;

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processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for
8 the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list; and

determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in
10 accordance with said processed first signal value for the at least one sector in
the subscriber station's list.

38. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said ascertaining at
2 the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the
forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list comprises
4 ascertaining at the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse
power control channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the
6 subscriber station's list.

39. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said processing at
2 the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one
sector in the subscriber station's list comprises filtering said ascertained signal
4 value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

40. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said determining at
2 the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said
processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list
4 comprises determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value
in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first
6 signal value and the forward link de-rating value.

41. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said determining at
2 the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said
processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list
4 comprises:

determining at the subscriber station a first reverse link quality metric in
6 accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first
signal value and the first reverse link quality metric; and

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8 determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in
accordance with a pre-determined relationship between the first reverse link
10 quality metric and the forward link de-rating value.

42. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links
4 quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

de-rating said determined forward link quality metric in accordance with
6 said determined forward link de-rating value;

8 assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric; and

10 directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector
from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
12 credits.

43. The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said assigning credits
2 to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving
the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality
4 metric comprises:

decreasing credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link
6 quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality
metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first
8 threshold; and

increasing credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

44. The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits
4 comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second
6 threshold; and

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directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with
8 the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval elapsed from the last re-
direction of communication.

45. The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal
4 highest assigned credits.

46. The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have
4 equal highest assigned credits.

47. The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising:

2 ascertaining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third
threshold; and

4 directing communication to a sector from said ascertained sectors with
the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval failed to elapse from the

6 last re-pointing.

48. The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal
4 highest assigned credits.

49. The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have
4 equal highest assigned credits.

50. The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising remaining in
2 a communication with a current serving sector otherwise.

51. The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising:

2 determining a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

4 wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with

6 said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises directing communication between the subscriber

8 station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics, said determined

10 second reverse link quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value.

52. The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein said determining a

2 second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list comprises:

4 ascertaining a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

6 determining the second reverse link quality metric in accordance with said ascertained second signal value for the current serving sector in the

8 subscriber station's list.

53. The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein said ascertaining a

2 second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list comprises ascertaining a DRC lock

4 bit in a DRC channel of the forward link for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

54. The method as claimed in claim 52 further comprising:

2 measuring at each sector a reverse link quality metric;

processing the reverse link quality metric to provide an indicator; and

4 providing the indicator on a forward link.

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55. The method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said providing the
2 indicator on a forward link comprises inserting the indicator into the second
channel of the forward link.

56. The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link
4 quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric, and said
determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

6 de-rating said determined forward link quality metrics in accordance with
said determined forward link de-rating value;

8 assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the
sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated
10 forward link quality metric; and

directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector
12 from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric.

57. The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said assigning credits
2 to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving
the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality
4 metric comprises:

decreasing credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link
6 quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality
metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first
8 threshold; and

increasing credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

58. The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said
4 determined second reverse link quality metric comprises continuing
communication with the current serving sector if said determined second
6 reverse link quality metric is sufficient.

59. The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said directing
2 communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors
in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said
4 determined second reverse link quality metric comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second
6 threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with
8 the highest of said assigned credits if said determined second reverse link
quality metric is insufficient.

60. The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal
4 highest assigned credits.

61. The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest
forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have
4 equal highest assigned credits.

62. The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits if no sector has
said assigned credits greater than the second threshold.

63. The method as claimed in claim 62 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest
processed signal value when at least two sectors have equal highest assigned
4 credits.

64. The method as claimed in claim 62 further comprising directing
2 communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest
forward link quality metric when at least two sectors have equal highest
4 assigned credits.

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65. An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:
means for determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality
4 metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;
means for determining a forward link de-rating value for at least one
6 sector in the subscriber station's list; and
means for directing communication between the subscriber station and
8 one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with
said determined forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined
10 forward link de-rating value.

66. An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber
2 station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:
a processor; and
4 a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of
instructions executable by the processor to:
6 determine at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each
sector in the subscriber station's list;
8 determine a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the
subscriber station's list; and
10 direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined
12 forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined forward link de-
rating value.

67. The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said data
2 communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

68. The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward
link for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of
4 instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward
link.

69. The apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said processor is
2 configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward
link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-
4 interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

70. The apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein said processor is
2 configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal
on the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-
4 noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

71. The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine a forward link de-rating value of at least one sector in
the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

4 ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a
first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber
6 station's list;

8 process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for
the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list; and

10 determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in
accordance with said processed first signal value for the at least one sector in
the subscriber station's list.

72. The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is
2 configured to ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position
in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber
4 station's list by executing a set of instructions to ascertain at the subscriber
station a reverse power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the
6 forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list.

73. The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is
2 configured to process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value
for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of

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- 4 instructions to filter said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

74. The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value
in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the
4 subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in
6 accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first
signal value and the forward link de-rating value.

75. The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value
in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the
4 subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

determine at the subscriber station a first reverse link quality metric in
6 accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first
signal value and the first reverse link quality metric; and

8 determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in
accordance with a pre-determined relationship between the first reverse link
10 quality metric and the forward link de-rating value.

76. The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is
2 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
4 determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-
rating value by executing a set of instructions to:

6 de-rate said determined forward link quality metric in accordance with
said determined forward link de-rating value;

8 assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the
sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated
10 forward link quality metric; and

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direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
12 the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
credits.

77. The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said processor is
2 configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except
the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-
4 rated forward link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

decrease credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link
6 quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality
metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first
8 threshold; and

increase credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

78. The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said processor is
2 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
4 assigned credits by executing a set of instructions to:

determine sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second
6 threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the
8 highest of said assigned credits if a time interval elapsed from the last re-
direction of communication.

79. The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined
sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

80. The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors

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- 4 with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

81. The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to:

4 ascertain sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third threshold; and

6 direct communication to a sector from said ascertained sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval failed to elapse from the last
8 re-pointing.

82. The apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

83. The apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

84. The apparatus as claimed in claim 81 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to remain in a communication with a current serving sector
4 otherwise.

85. The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to:

4 determine a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and wherein said directing communication

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6 between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the
subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality
8 metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
10 the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined
forward links quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric,
12 and said determined forward link de-rating value.

86. The apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein said processor is
2 configured to determine a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving
sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

4 ascertain a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of
the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

6 determine the second reverse link quality metric in accordance with said
ascertained second signal value for the current serving sector in the subscriber
8 station's list.

87. The apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein said processor is
2 configured to ascertain a second signal value in a second channel of the
forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list by
4 executing a set of instructions to ascertain a DRC lock bit in a DRC channel of
the forward link for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

88. The apparatus as claimed in claim 86 further comprising:
2 a second processor; and
a second storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set
4 of instructions executable by the second processor to:

measure at each sector a reverse link quality metric;
6 process the reverse link quality metric to provide an indicator; and
provide the indicator on a forward link.

89. The apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein said second
2 processor is configured to providing the indicator on a forward link by executing

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4 a set of instructions to insert the indicator into the second channel of the forward link.

2 90. The apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein said processor is
4 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
6 sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
determined forward link quality metrics, said determined second reverse link
quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value by executing a
set of instructions to:

8 de-rate said determined forward link quality metrics in accordance with
said determined forward link de-rating value;

10 assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the
sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated
forward link quality metric; and

12 direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from
the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned
14 credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric.

2 91. The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said processor is
4 configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except
the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-
rated forward link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

6 decrease credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link
quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality
metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first
8 threshold; and

increase credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

2 92. The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said processor is
4 configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one
sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said
assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric by
executing a set of instructions to continue communication with the current
6 serving sector if said determined second reverse link quality metric is sufficient.

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8 direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the
highest of said assigned credits if said determined second reverse link quality
10 metric is insufficient.

95. The apparatus as claimed in claim 93 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors
4 with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined
sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

96. The apparatus as claimed in claim 93 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned
4 credits if no sector has said assigned credits greater than the second threshold.

97. The apparatus as claimed in claim 96 wherein the set of
2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned
4 credits and the highest processed signal value when at least two sectors have
equal highest assigned credits.

98. The apparatus as claimed in claim 96 wherein the set of
- 2 instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of
- instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned
- 4 credits and the highest forward link quality metric when at least two sectors
- have equal highest assigned credits.

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